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The Prairie View Standard

Vol. 32

Prairie View State College, Prairie View Branch, Hempstead, Texas, January, 1941

No. 5

College & High School Agriculture Students Become Established In Farming

STUDENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE BECOME ESTABLISHED IN FARMING



Upper Left: Home of Willie Melton, Kendleton, Texas; Upper Right: New Farm-All, Model H, 1941 Tractor of Willie Melton; Lower Left: Poultry House and Flock of Single Comb White Leghorns owned by Willie Melton; Lower Right: Home of Charles Taylor of Kendleton, Texas. These homes are examples of previous students of Vocational Agriculture that have become established in farming.

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE STUDENT ESTABLISHED IN FARMING

By B. S. Luter

Mr. Willie Melton—a former student of Vocational Agriculture at Powell Point Training School graduated under the late Professor C. H. Banks who was teaching Vocational Agriculture at Kendleton during that time. Mr. Melton cultivated, dur-

ing the last year, 105 acres of water-melons from which he cleared more than \$3,000.00. During last fall he purchased a new 1941-Farm-All, Model H tractor for which he is paying through earnings from his water-melons and poultry flock of 250 Single-Comb white leghorn hens.

Mr. Melton raises annually from 200 to 300 turkeys, from 10 to 15 hogs and owns 50 head of cattle. He has recently purchased a new International Truck and 50 acres of the

best farming land in Fort Bend County. He employs from 25 to 30 workers on his farm at various seasons of the year.

Mr. Melton is married, has seven children and has recently built a new dwelling on his farm-stead. He is just one example of the 1700 young Negro men in Texas that have become established in framing through activities of classes in Vocational Agriculture.

The Prairie View Standard

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W. R. Banks, Managing Editor
Napoleon B. Edward, Editor

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THE 1940-41 AGRICULTURE STAFF

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C. L. Harrison, B. S., Rural Engineering
O. J. Thomas, B. S., Itinerant Teacher Trainer
B. S. Luter, B. S., Agriculture Education
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New Members, 1940-41

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*Names starred are on leave for 1940-41

"The strivings of humanity, in all ages, have been for the kind of security that would produce and guarantee permanent peace and abiding happiness. It is an accepted fact that before one drinks of the cup of happiness and security, he must be willing to sacrifice and bleed."

—W. R. Banks, In News Letter,

PRAIRIE VIEW COLLEGE—HOST TO SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY FOR NEGRO AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

By B. S. Luter

The question "What Is A Desirable National Agricultural Program" constituted the central theme of the recent School of Philosophy for Negro Agricultural Workers held at Prairie View State College on January 23, 24 and 25, 1941. The school was under the sponsorship of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating with Prairie View State College, State Department of Education and Texas Extension Service.

The school had its guest lecturers the following outstanding persons: Dr. James O. Howard, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Fred D. Patterson, President, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama; Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, Department of Sociology, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Division of Social Sciences, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. T. Lynn Smith, Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Dr. Carl F. Taeusch, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Carl F. Taeusch, in a group meeting explained that the purpose of the School of Philosophy were primarily to stimulate group discussions of the vital problems affecting agriculture in general and to distribute responsibility of discussing important questions affecting public policies relating to agriculture. Approximately 84 such schools have been conducted throughout the Nation, eight of which have been for Negroes.

Briefly the results of surveys from these schools that have been conducted have shown that agricultural workers who are trained on the college level should include in their field of preparation courses in Philosophy, Psychology, Public Administration, Public Speaking and others; and that such courses should constitute a greater portion of the initial years in college. A broad general education was emphasized with a re-

directing of the practical and technical courses in special agriculture towards the close of the college career.

The recommendation concluded was that the collegiate agricultural curriculum should be based upon the findings revealed in a survey in a survey to be taken for such purposes among the previous graduates from agricultural colleges. Many pertinent questions concerning the details of such a program were analyzed with distinct implications for future improvement.

PRAIRIE VIEW GRADUATE OF DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE BECOMES ESTABLISHED IN FARMING

By O. J. Thomas

Twelve miles north of Rusk, Tex., in Cherokee County, Lee Hardeway, a Prairie View Graduate from the Division of Agriculture, owns and operates a 320 acre farm. He has 75 acres in cultivation; the rest is in pine timber and pasture land.

On the 75 acres in cultivation he grows corn, peas, peanuts, sorghum, potatoes, broom corn and a garden for home use. He also raises cattle, hogs chickens and turkeys. Surplus produce is marketed and brings a substantial income.

To supplement his income from farm produce, Mr. Hardeway operates a broom and mattress factory. He started with a one room building and gasoline engine to furnish power. Material from an old house on the farm was used to build the shop. This building and equipment soon became inadequate to serve his customers. After the Rural Electric line was brought to the community, another room was added to the shop and electricity was installed. The shop now has all modern electric equipment and the daily output of mattresses has been doubled.

Mr. Hardeway's business has grown from a few customers in his community to a large territory comprising Cherokee, Rusk, Smith and Nacogdoches counties. He attributes his success to prompt service and the "best" in workmanship. From 18 to 20 brooms are made in a day on the foot power winder. All kinds and sizes of brooms are made from select straw grown on his farm.

(Continued on page 8)

STATE FAIR EXHIBIT OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA, DALLAS, 1939



The Texas Association of New Farmers is larger than any other State Association and State Fair participation is standing out as one of the Most important current activities.

NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL, COUNTY AND STATE FAIRS

By O. J. Thomas,

State Adviser of the Texas Association of N. F. A.

One of the goals set up in the New Farmers of America State Program of work is 100 per cent participation in local, county and State Fairs. In 1939 and 1940 an increasing amount of interest was shown in carrying out this goal. Seventy-five percent or more N. F. A. Chapters participated in local, county and State Fairs this year.

The exhibit at the State Fair featured Educational Booths by N.F.A. boys in the five areas set up by the State Board for Vocational Agriculture in Texas. Educational booths were set up by the different areas and proved valuable in showing what Vocational Agriculture can do to make farm life more satisfactory.

Area No. 1 showed what the N. F. A. is doing in the National Defense Program.

Area No. 2 gave a Recipe for Farm Defense, the ingredients of which would include soil conservation, food for the family, feed for livestock, cash crops, live stock, poultry and farm cooperatives.

Area No. 3 featured proper land use by contrasting two farms, one properly used and the other improperly used. The results were shown in each case.

Area No. 4 showed the N. F. A. as a champion prize-fighter knocking out poor livestock and poultry, soil erosion, one crop system and other evil farm practices.

Area No. 5 demonstrated the proper housing and care of poultry.

Aside from the lessons taught by these exhibits which drew quite a bit of attention of spectators, they made a picturesque background for the general exhibit of farm products.

The farm products booth contained six varieties of corn, cotton, grain-sorghum, peas, peanuts, sweet-potatoes, pumpkins and cushaws.

These products were well selected and showed improvement over those of the previous year. Cash prizes were awarded for the first time for the best product in each class. One hundred and seventy-five dollars were given for prizes by the State Fair Board. These prizes were distributed among the winners in each area.

Area No. 1 led in prizes. The Kildare N. F. A. Chapter won the highest number of prizes and was awarded the sweepstakes ribbon.

Area No. 2 was second with Redland N. F. A. Chapter leading in that area.

The Jasper District of area number five displayed a creditable exhibit at the South Texas State Fair, Beaumont, Texas, on Swnie Improvement.

It is hoped that more boys will be inspired to produce high quality livestock and commodities on the farm and that more farm boys and men will learn to appreciate the importance of proper land use, soil conservation and other improved farm practices and put them into operation on their farms.

STATE FAIR EXHIBIT OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA, 1940
(Participation in State Fair exceeded that of, 1939)



STATE N. F. A. CONVENTION
AND JUDGING CONTEST TO BE
HELD AT PRAIRIE VIEW
COLLEGE

By O. J. Thomas,
State Adviser for Association of
N. F. A.

The Texas Association of New Farmers of America will hold its annual convention at Prairie View State College, February 23-24, 1941.

At this convention, delegates from one hundred and sixty local N. F. A. Chapters in Texas are expected to

meet and work out plans for another year's program of work. Activities in connection with the State Convention will include the following:

1. Leadership and Feature Contests including public speaking, N. F. A. Chapter Conducting, quartett singing, harmonical and banjo music, stunts etc.

2. Judging Contests—Livestock, poultry, crops, farm shop and seed.

3. The N. F. A. State Basket Ball Tournament which will comprise the winners and runnerlups from each of the five Areas in Texas.

In 1940, the Booker T. Washington

Chapter of Elgin, Texas won the State Championship in the Judging Contest. Still not feeling satisfied with their achievement, they won the National Championship at Pine Bluff, Arkansas in August. This marked the first time that Texas has won this National honor. The team was made up of the following N.F.A. boys: Otis Owens, Charles Jones and Ollie Mitchell, Mr. J. C. Madison, Coach.

The winners in the 1941 contest will compete for National honors at

(Continued on page 7)

THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA IN RELATION TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

Speech delivered by B. S. Luter in N. F. A. Broadcast over Station W. T. A. W., at College Station, Texas, Sunday January 19, 1941. Program sponsored by the Sophomore Class Chapter Division of the Prairie View Collegiate Chapter of the New Farmers of America.

To the members of the Radio Audience and Friends. I bring you greetings from the Prairie View Collegiate Chapter of the New Farmers of America and from the Texas Association of the New Farmers of America.

Six years ago the New Farmers of America adopted a Constitution and By-Laws in their first National Convention held at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. There in the shadows of the towering shrines to the late Booker T. Washington, the N. F. A. set forth its constitution with the chief objective being synonymous to the chief objective of the Vocational Act of 1917. "To become successfully established in Farming." In order to accomplish this end; the organization under the guidance and leadership of its founder, the late Dr. H. O. Sargent, set forth several substitute purposes, namely:

1. To create interest in the intelligent choice of framing.
2. To encourage cooperative effort among Negro Student of Vocational Agriculture.
3. To develop rural leadership.
4. To promote Thrift.
5. To advance Vocational Education in Agriculture in Negro Public Schools of the South.

The organization of the New Farmers of America comprises five distinct units, namely:

1. The Local Chapters of New Farmers of America which are composed of boys enrolled in classes in Vocational Agriculture operating under the Smith Hughes Act and which elect officers annually, set up a program of agricultural work and meet regularly each week. In a local Chapter of New Farmers each member carries out a systematic long Time Program of Supervised Farming through which he ultimately establishes himself in farming.
2. The District or Area Federations of New Farmers of America which comprises representative delegates from local Chapters within a

given District or Area; meet regularly each month, elect officers annually, plan and carry out a program of agricultural work.

3. The State Associations of New Farmers of America which comprises representative delegates from all local Chapters within a State, meet annually, elect officers and carry out a program of agricultural work.

4. The National Association of New Farmers of America which comprises representative delegates from the various State Associations, meets and elects officers annually and carries out a program of agricultural work.

5. The Collegiate Chapter of New Farmers of America which comprises the students of Agricultural Education in Land Grant Colleges who are preparing to enter into the field of Vocational Agriculture Teachers as prospective Advisers of local Chapters.

The National Association of New Farmers of America has grown from an active membership in 1935 of about 4000 to approximately 23,000 members in 1939; and an associate membership in 1935 of about 2000, to approximately 12,000 in 1939. These figures are derived from a study of the minutes and proceedings of the fifth National Convention that was held in Borden Town, New Jersey, in August, 1939. Thus we may safely conclude that the organization of New Farmers of America now comprises more than 35,000 Negro boys in American rural life that are in some way connected with the definite purposes of Educational facilities.

The relationship of these 30,000 members of the New Farmers of America to the recently developed program of National Defense has found its chief connection through the angle of out-of-school youth, which group in this country now comprises more than 500,000 young Negro men between the ages of 16 and 24 who are out of work, or in other words, virtually at the crossroads of life with no direction as to which way to go or what to do.

THANKS to the Federal Forces of America which, under the guiding influence of the Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt, has set forth a Program of National Defense that has been so organized as to directly reclaim a number of these "out-of-school" youth largely through the local Chapters of New Farmers of

America. It will be through this channel that a great many of the 30,000 out-of-school Negro boys in Texas will be re-directed into a useful way of life.

There are 150 local Chapters of New Farmers of America in the Texas Association which comprise an active membership of more than 5,000 Negro Students of Vocational Agriculture:—and to speak the sentiment of these 5,000 N. F. A. members of Texas (by authority vested in me through their Executive Cabinet) I now say that the Texas Association of New Farmers of America stands willing and ready to prove their loyalty and love of country by cooperating wholeheartedly with the recently developed program of National Defense Training of Out-of-School youth.

Since our National Emergency is, according to the President of these United States, as serious as war itself; we can but pledge ourselves to the much needed public spirited action in cooperating with all agencies for the carrying out of the total program of Defense measures.

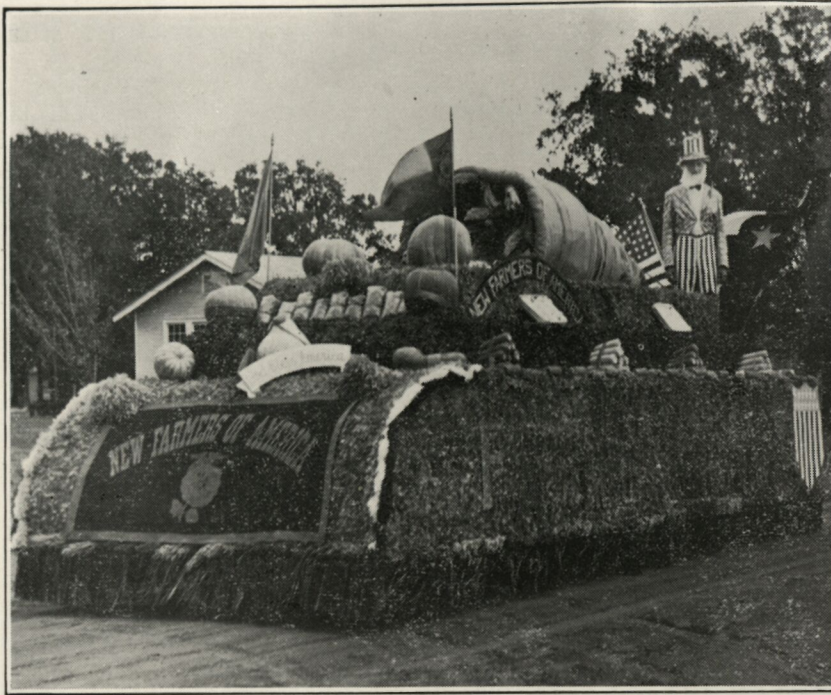
To be specific, the National Defense Training Program in Texas, under the leadership of Mr. C. A. Harrison of Prairie View State College, has to this date already established approximately 56 centers in Departments of Vocational Agriculture whose N. F. A. Chapters have been working diligently in reclaiming approximately 1,400 out-of-school Negro boys in Texas. These out-of-school boys, under the guidance of local Chapter Advisers and the influence of N. F. A. members are pledging themselves to carry out a Program of National Defense training that involves the study and completion of from eight weeks to six months of intensive study and work in four distinct courses, namely:

1. The Operation, cost and repair of tractors, trucks and automobiles.
2. Metal work, including heating, heating, treating, tempering and simple welds.
3. Woodwork.
4. Elementary electricity.

Many N. F. A. members are now working on some of these courses in connection with their regular classes in Vocational Agriculture and it is in this respect that these boys may show their loyalty to their country and all its Defense

(Continued on page 8)

THE 1940 N. F. A. FLOAT



This float was planned and constructed by the Prairie View Collegiate Chapter of The New Farmers of America.

THE 1940 N. F. A. FLOAT

By Donald Williams, '41

The N. F. A. Float for the "1940 Home Coming Parade" symbolized, as usual, a fundamental training device for prospective workers in agricultural education. It was planned and constructed by the members of the various Class-chapters units of the Prairie View Collegiate Chapter of the New Farmers of America. In keeping with the modern tendencies in Visual Education, the Collegiate Chapter selected the theme "National Defense Through Agriculture."

The float consisted of a frame work carefully constructed over a 1938-Plymouth—two door sedan. It was 28 feet long and 8 feet wide, and was entirely covered with Parade-Excellor in N. F. A. colors and garnished with agricultural commodities. As will be seen from the above picture, the theme of combined patriotism and agriculture were brought out through a representative Uncle Sam who was pouring agricultural products out of a horn of plenty to feed the country. The letters for the words "National Defense Thru Agriculture" were made of beaver board and handsomely decorated in N. F. A. colors and inlaid on each side of the float.

OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE PRAIRIE VIEW COLLEGIATE CHAPTER OF THE N. F. A., 1940-41

John Murphy, '41, president; Emanuel Lofton, '41, vice-president; R. C. Johnson, '43, secretary; Everett Hunter, '42, treasurer; Norman Patrick, '42, watchman; D. Williams, '41, reporter; Reginal Brown, '41, parliamentarian; Claude Sanson, '41, song leader; William Freeman, '43, historian; W. T. Baker, '42, chaplain; B. S. Luter, adviser.

Class Chapters

Freshman Class Chapter—M. W. Lawson, Jr., president; Dr. J. M. Coruthers, Mr. J. C. Williams, advisers. Sophomore Class Chapter—J. W. Smith, president; Mr. C. A. Harrison, Mr. S. S. Murray, advisers. Junior Class Chapter—Edgar Sadberry, president; Mr. R. S. Byrd, Mr. R. W. Coles, advisers. Senior Class Chapter—Emanuel Lofton, president; Dr. E. M. Norris, Mr. J. M. Alexander, advisers.

Each side was supplemented with a replica of the National Emblem in colors of Red, White and Blue.

Prominently arranged behind Uncle Sam were the large flags of Texas and the United States.

The entire float was virtually a rolling agricultural display interwoven into an educational idea. The

PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE PRAIRIE VIEW COLLEGIATE CHAPTER OF THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA

By John Murphy, '41

At its first meeting in September, the Prairie View Collegiate Chapter of the New Farmers of America adopted an unusual program of activities for the current school year. This program included the following:

1. Secure a 100 per cent membership in the N. F. A. of students enrolled in the Division of Agriculture. To-date this goal has reached the 80 per cent mark with about 150 members being active members of the Collegiate Chapter.

2. Plan and construct an N. F. A. Float for the annual Home Coming Parade.

3. Sponsor a poultry project—to be carried out jointly.

4. Sponsor a group swine project. (Already in progress).

5. Sponsor a vegetable project. This project as well as the preceding two are being promoted mainly for their educational value to the members of the N. F. A. but ultimately they will be used to help promote the annual banquet.

6. Promote an N. F. A. Carnival night in conjunction with a parliamentary procedure contest.

7. Sponsor a joint meeting of the N. H. T. Cabinet and the N. F. A. Cabinet for the purpose of planning a joint program of work.

8. Conduct jointly with the N. H. T. a mocked Father-Son and Mother-Daughter Banquet. Food for this banquet will consist largely of products produced by the N. F. A. members.

9. Assist in every possible way with the conduct of the Annual State N. F. A. Convention, Judging Contest and Basketball Tournament.

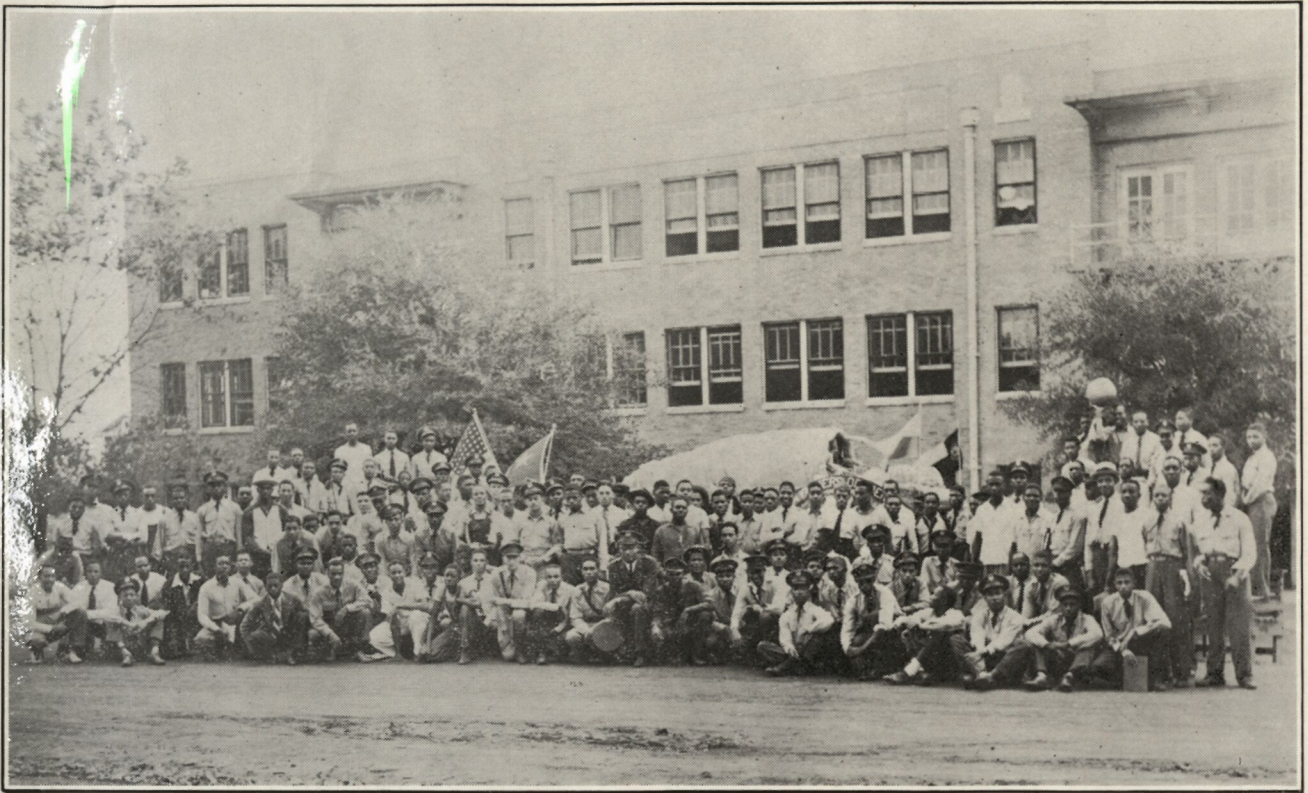
10. Sponsor a Christmas Program through which the entire campus may benefit.

11. Plan a proposed design for an official Collegiate Emblem for Collegiate Chapters of the New Farmers of America and submit copies of such to the National Board of Trustees for their consideration.

complete design was surmounted with a horn of plenty which was pouring out food such as peas, beans, pumpkins, cushaws, corn, potatoes, peanuts, carrots, turnips and many other similar vegetable crops. Cotton

(Continued on page 7)

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE PRAIRIE VIEW COLLEGIATE CHAPTER OF NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA



Approximately 80 percent of the students enrolled in Agriculture are active members of the Prairie View Collegiate Chapter of the N. F. A. This represents an increase of approximately 30 per cent over that of the same date last year.

PRAIRIE VIEW COLLEGE N. F. A. QUARTETT



N. F. A. Quartett: (Sophomore Chapter) Featured in Broadcast, Sunday January 19, over W. T. A. W. Left to right: Charles Bradford, Tenor; E. Peterson, Leader; Joseph Ross, Baritone and Fred Mack, Basso.

THE 1940 N. F. A. FLOAT

(Continued from page 6)

and corn exhibits were symmetrically arranged on either side in stair step fashion. The front side of the topmost step was decked with an arch bearing the inscription "New Farmers of America."

As usual the Collegiate Chapter of the New Farmers of America regard the Home Coming Float as one of their most outstanding accomplishments for the year and the members are enthusiastically looking forward to plans for the ensuing year.

THE STATE N. F. A. CONVENTION—

(Continued from page 4)

the National Convention to be held at Tallahassee, Florida, in August of this year.

It is hoped that through these and other similar activities in which New Farmers of America engage, rural boys will be developed into capable rural leaders.

NATIONAL DEFENSE TRAINING CLASSES FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTHS



THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA IN RELATION TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

(Continued from page 5)

Measures by assisting in any possible way to help guide and maintain the newly reclaimed out-of-school youths.

We must in every way be as sympathetic and as understanding as possible; and willing on every hand to be of help and service.

At a meeting of the Texas Vocational Association some months ago, Mr. R. A. Manire, State Director of Agricultural Education, told a remarkable story of significance which, with his permission, I am going to use just here.

The story goes that a certain man gave his small son a map of the world which had been torn to pieces and commanded the son to put it back together again. The father had not noticed that there was a picture of a man on the reverse side, but the son, in an effort to piece the world

together, discovered the man and reversed the order of things. He was thus able to place all the pieces in their right position and soon reported to his father who wanted to know how he did it. Well, replied the son, there was a man on the other side and when he was right the world was right.

And that, my friends, is what seems to have driven us to our position of National Emergency. "There's a man on the other side, and when we get him right, the whole world will be right." In this program of National Defense, there are some men on the other side, and they too must be right and the question is HOW WILL WE DO IT?

Virtually the out-of-school youths who are being reclaimed through our Program of National Defense Training are at a cross-roads with nothing to do and not knowing which way to turn and when these youths get right then the whole program will be right. CAN WE DO IT? Let us answer in the language of Ralph Waldo Emerson:—

"So nigh to grandeur is our dust,
So near to God is man:
When duty whispers 'Thou Must'
The N. F. A. replies, 'I CAN.'"

PRAIRIE VIEW GRADUATE OF DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE BECOMES ESTABLISHED IN FARMING

(Continued from page 2)

Mr Hardeway says he is well pleased on the farm and makes a good living for his family. He completed a course in broom and mattress making at Prairie View in 1915 and at which time said course was a part of the Agricultural Curriculum. He has thus put into practice a part of the things that he learned while studying at Prairie View. His home is a modern five room cottage with electrical appliances.

Be wiser than other people if you can, but do not tell them so.

—Chesterfield